(e) whether the Government of Rajasthan has requested the Union Government and RBI to impress upon the banks to increase the investment in the State so that C.D. Ratio of the State could be improved as per norms; and

(f) if so, the action taken by RBI and the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The credit deposit ratio of commercial banks in Rajasthan is 44.2 per cent as on the last Friday of March, 1997 as against the all India average of 57.3 per cent. Reserve Bank of India have advised commercial banks that they should achieve a credit deposit ratio of 60 per cent in respect of their rural and semi-urban branches separately on an all India basis. Banks have also been advised that while it is not necessary that this ratio should be achieved separately branchwise, district-wise or region-wise, the banks should nevertheless ensure that wide disparity in the ratios between different States/ Regions is avoided in order to minimise imbalances in credit deployment. However, the credit deposit raito in particular State or Region depends upon the credit absorption capacity of the State/ Region which in turn is determined and influenced by factors such as development of infrastruc-tural facilities like irrigation power, rail, road transport, basic and technical education, entrepreneurship and availability of required inputs and marketing outlets for agricultural and industrial production.

(c) to (f) The Task Froce on Credit Deposit Ratio for Rajasthan was constituted by Reserve Bank of India in 1993. The Government of Rajasthan had also taken up the matter with the Union Government in March 1996 regarding low credit deposit ratio in Rajasthan. The bank has since reported that the recommendations of the Task Force constituted by Reserve Bank of India are being followed up for implementation by commercial banks operating in Rajasthan and the progress thereof is discussed in the meeting of SLBC/ Steering Committee from time to time.

Detection of F.D. Account in Allahabad Bank

1744. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 2186 dated December 6, 1996 regarding detection of F.D. account in rural branch of Allahabad Bank and state:

(a) whether the CBI has since completed its investigation into opening of accounts without observing the necessary formalities;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken in the matter;

(c) the number of bank officials found guilty and punished for opening the bank accounts without observing the necessary formalities in private and public sector banks; and

(d) the number of accounts in private sector banks still in operation even after the demise of the account holders giving the full details thereof of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, 1997

1745. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY :

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the international Narcotics Control Strategy Report, 1997 indicated India for having failed to prosecute major narcotics offenders;

(b) whether the Report also indicated that India has become a major centre for international narcotics trafficking;

(c) If so, the main points mentioned in the Report;

(d) whether the Government have examined the Report;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) U.S. State Department's Annual International Narcotics Control Strategy Report for 1996 has lauded India's efforts against drug trafficking. It has, however, also drawn the attention of the Government of Inida to the fact that it has achieved limited success in prosecuting major narcotics offenders.

(b) to (e) Government of India's comments on the International Narcotics Control strategy Report for the year 1996 are given in the Statement attached.

(f) Government of India is fully aware of the problem of narcotics trafficking and have taken several steps in this regard which include re-activisation of enforcement agencies throughout the country, training of the officers, holding of regular Coordination Meeting, developing of bilateral agreement with several countries and holding of talks with Pakistan and Myanmar.

Statement

Government of India's Comments on International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, 1996

The U.S. Government's State Department issued its annual International Narcotics Control Strategy Report for 1996 on 28th February, 1997. The U.S. President has certified India to be fully cooperating with the U.S. in its anti-narcotics efforts. The Report is a requirement of U.S. Congress outlining the international narcotics control strategy of the U.S. Administration and satisfies the mandatory certification requirement of 32 identified major drug producing and transit countries.

The Report recognizes India's unique position as a world's largest producer of licit opium and as an important transhipment point for heroin from South West Asia and South East Asia. It mentions in positive terms of the high level cooperation between the Govern-ment of India and the U.S. Government. The positive remarks finding place in the Report is a clear vindication of India's efforts in the durg enforcement field and the initiatives announced by the Government with regard to licit opium cultivation.

The Report also lists out major accomplishments to the credit of Indian law enforcement agencies, particularly the narcotics Control Bureau and the Central Bureau of narcotics with regard to several measures taken to reduce illicit trafficking and diversion of licit opium into illicit channels, like:-

(a) raising the minimum yield of opium that farmers must deliver for the fifth consecutive year to the Government in order to retain a license;

(b) offences relating to embezzlement of opium by licensed cultivators treated on par with other trafficking offences under the NDPS Act and Rules;

(c) controlling availability of precursor chemicals with cooperation from the industry;

(d) setting up of three new zonal units at Chandigarh, Jammu and Ahmedabad by the Narcotics Control Bureau;

(e) proposed legislative measures to curb and prevent money laundering.

The Report also takes congnizance of the priority accorded to the coordinating activity of the Narcotics Control Bureau in the field of narcotics law enforcement and narcotics interdiction.

It may be mentioned that India has a Mutual Cooperation Agreement with the U.S. Government for reducing demand, preventing illicit use of and trafficking in drugs and matters relating to licit trade of opiates besides a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperative measures to increase awareness of and support for efforts on to combat production, distribution and use of illicit drugs. Periodical meetings of the Indo-U.S. Joint Working Group take place to strengthen narcotics control efforts of both the countries.

Closure of PSUs

1746. SHRI BAS DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to close down unviable Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details of such unviable undertakings; and

(c) the broad details of policy of the Government in regard to unviable undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Sick PSUs are referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction for suitable decision.

(c) The policy of the Government on public sector undertakings have been spelt out in the Common Minimum Programme.

Disinvestment Commission

1747. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had appointed a Disinvestment Commission to advise the Government on how and in which Public Sector Enterprises dilute its stake to 49% or 26%;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard so far;

(c) whether there is any proposal before the Government for Joint Ventures in regard to loss making units and sale of some Public Sector Enterprises;

(d) if so, whether any concrete measures in this regard have been proposed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Disinvestment Commission has been set up by the Govt., inter-alia, to draw a comprehensive long term Disinvestment programme for the Govt. and they are seized of the matter.

(c) to (e) The Government have already formulated strategies to restructure the public enterprises under the Ministry of Industry, inclusive of loss making enterprises. Under such strategies various options like joint venture, sale of specific unit etc. are considered on case to case basis. Implementation of the strategies is a continuous process.

Export Promotion Council, Gujarat

1748. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open offices of different Export Promotion Council (EPC) in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to promote the export of various items-products from the State;

(d) if so, whether any amount has been earmarked for this purpose; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.